

THE DOUBLE FESTIVAL.

Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day Fall Together.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Mardi Gras is Not Observed Here and the Valentine Custom is Gradually Dying Out.

Mardi Gras and St. Valentine's Day coincided yesterday. This does not often occur as Mardi Gras rarely comes as early as it did this year. Nor was the conflict of dates the fault of Valentine's Day, as that festival has had the right of way on February 14 from the time that Lent and Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) have been injected into the calendar.

Lent, being a movable feast, is liable to stumble up against any other special day that may occur in the infancy of the year.

While Mardi Gras has never been particularly observed in Houston as an occasion of unusual festivity, the Lenten season that immediately follows it is observed by the church people as a matter of duty, and by the society people as a matter of necessity, as custom taboo any attempt at social gaiety during the Lenten season, supposed to be one of abstinence and self-abnegation.

While Mardi Gras is not observed in Houston as a day affording the last opportunity for society preceding Lent, the custom of sending valentines through the mails is still kept up, though to a limited extent, compared with the indulgence of the custom of years gone by.

The book stores were, however, prepared to meet any demand that might be made upon them, and were well supplied with missives both of the comic and sentimental styles; among the latter were those that would touch the heart of any susceptible young maiden, while among the assortment of "comics" were some that would strike like the whip of a scorpion.

Valentine's Day takes its origin from the beheading of Bishop Valentine, on the 14th day of February, shortly after the commencement of the Christian era. It is impossible to gather from history just what reason subsequent youths and maidens have found for taking that execution day as a date on which to send love tokens. But, whether at his own instigation or not, the death of Bishop Valentine, the martyr of the Christian church, is commemorated every year with the daintiest of ceremonies. And whether or not he, in the moment of his death, before the fatal blow as he stood on the scaffold, had a glimpse into the future and saw for a moment the endless honor that was to be given his name, that honor is offered him as if he had merited it, and to him that "lives in the hearts of his countrymen."

Every 14th of February since St. Valentine's Day, it has been the custom of youths and maidens to exchange valentines for the year, or at least to indulge in sweet and poetic love-letters and songs to one another. Some of these missives are as dainty as the fairest of flowers, and some have been devoted to the most unbecoming and even to the most unbecoming of the winged feathers for a quill and a dip in the morning azure for ink. There are others sent forth from an equal superabundance of love, not over-idealized with sensibilities. Rubricated and healthy young Cupids disport themselves about the page, as a suggestive border. In the center generally appears a persuasive maiden dressed in pink skirt, white, flounced above, with one hand in the pocket thereof, low-cut bodice of too airy material for February and satin-shod feet that can run to points. The maiden has violet eyes and golden locks, her brow is like alabaster and a smile, gentle yet almost and, plays upon her ruby lips. Her other hand attempts to still the beating of her timid heart, as she awaits the coming of a monstrous dove cleaving the sky, bearing in its bill a love letter, which, in comparison with the size of the maiden, would serve as a comical emblem, when the shades of evening begin falling fast. On the inside of the little paper-lake booklet several stanzas redolent of "eyes of blue," "heart so true," "Valentine's sweetheart mine," convey to the recipient the eloquent emotions of the sender.

FOR THE FAITH HOME.

A Little More Than Seven Hundred Dollars Subscribed.

The employees of the Houston and Texas Central railroad sent \$7. Mrs. Ida Japhet sent \$2.50, "a friend" \$3, and "another friend" 50 cents for the Faith Home yesterday, which makes the total thus far contributed \$710.80.

The Post has frequently told of the work that is being done by the ladies of the Faith Home association for the homeless children of Houston.

For six years they have worked—with many struggles and self-denials—to erect a Faith Home building. This building is at last a reality, but there is a debt of \$2500 hanging over it.

The Post has called upon the people of Houston to take this debt upon their shoulders—to relieve the ladies of this burden. Every citizen should contribute something to this cause. If you can't afford \$25, or \$5, send \$1 or send 25 cents.

The Faith Home building cost \$11,000 and is an honor and an ornament to the city. It will give a home to many orphaned children, and will be a great aid to these noble ladies in fulfilling the mission for which their association was organized.

Show that you endorse this work. Give the ladies some little assistance in their great undertaking. Send a Faith Home contribution to The Post today.

To the Editor of The Post.
Houston, Texas, February 14.—I was agreeably surprised this afternoon to find upon my desk a list comprised solely of the names of the employees of the railroad of the Houston and Texas Central railroad, with the heading as follows:

"Recognizing the many and continuous charitable acts of the Faith Home, we, the undersigned employees of the railroad of the Houston and Texas Central railroad, cheerfully subscribe the amounts opposite our names for its benefit."

Enclosed I beg to hand you the amount subscribed, namely \$7. Next? Very sincerely,
Geo. Kidd, Auditor.

Saengerbund Masquerade.
The only attempt at an observance of Mardi Gras in this city was the masquerade ball given last night by the Saengerbund society at Saengerbund hall, and this was marred by the very disagreeable weather which considerably curtailed the attendance. There were probably a hundred masqueraders upon the floor, represent-

SUFFERING POOR OF HOUSTON

The Post Will Try Today to Alleviate Some of the Distress.

The unprecedentedly bitter weather, which the people of this section have experienced within the past two or three days has unquestionably left intense suffering in its wake. It came so unexpectedly, and was so extraordinary for this part of Texas, that even those in comfortable circumstances were unprepared to meet it without great discomfort and inconvenience.

When the results are such among those who have good homes and adequate resources to meet such an emergency, we can begin faintly to imagine what must have been the effects upon the unfortunate who were practically without any provision against such a terrible and dangerous experience.

It is undoubtedly true that many of the poor of this city suffered intensely. With scant clothing, unwarmed dwellings, no fuel and no opportunity to labor for food, the effects of the frightful blizzard were not only keenly felt during its continuance but are being felt still, both in body and mind. Theirs is a case that appeals to charity, with a depth of pathos we rarely meet in this part of Texas.

They must certainly need medicine, many of them, or the physician's care. They yet need wood or coal. Possibly many of them are wanting food. These poor people must be assisted to some extent, at least, for the bitter, biting effects of the blizzard are not yet over.

This morning The Post will undertake to help the really destitute who are in need of fuel, or food, or medicines. If well authenticated cases of destitution, deserving of assistance, are reported to the business office of The Post today, their immediate necessities will be looked after by the management of this paper.

ing every conceivable character of both sexes. There were Indians with their war paint and feathers, the fresh "kay" just from the mountains with his long scalp-locks and unsophisticated manners, the penitentiary birds, Nos. 7 and 11, sailors and landlubbers, fairies and courtiers, characters representing the noble night and the bright, effervescent morning, dominoes galore and a lot of masqueraders who did not attempt to represent anything further than being disguised.

It was a merry, jolly homogeneous crowd and all present seemed to enter heartily into the enjoyment of the occasion with but little thought of the cold, wet and disagreeable weather without that fronted the windows of the hall and filled the street with slush, while the kay revelers within gave little thought to the weather or aught else save the enjoyment of the hour.

PERSONAL MENTION.

R. B. Kilgough was in the city yesterday. Mayor John D. McCall of Austin was in the city yesterday.

Mr. George Walker of San Antonio was registered at the Capital yesterday.

Mr. A. A. Dyer and wife of Galveston were in the city yesterday, stopping at the Llewellyn.

Miss May Sharp of Yonkers is in the city visiting Mrs. F. J. Snavely at 1309 Fannin.

Mr. Jeff D. Bryant has been confined to his room for several days on account of sickness.

Mr. F. P. Weldon and wife are registered at the Capitol. Mr. Weldon is manager of the Houstonians.

Mr. James A. Foley and wife returned last night from a trip to San Antonio, Austin and other points.

Mr. C. K. Meriwether of Dallas is registered at the Bristol. Mr. Meriwether is one of the oldest commercial men in the state.

Mr. Robert Lytle and daughter, Mildred, of Denton, Texas, are visiting Mrs. H. D. Bird, corner Main and Rusk. Her many old-time friends of two years ago are very glad to see her once more.

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Christian indifference because you can not see the reason in religion, the lectures will lead you along by the rivers of truth and open to your mind such worlds of interesting disclosures that you can no longer remain indifferent. If you are on the verge of insanity, these lectures have reclaimed more than a hundred other arguments for Christianity, because they set forth truth, not dogma, reason, not superstition.

The views advocated in these lectures can not be successfully disputed from the Bible standpoint, and they so link together the Bible testimony from Genesis to Revelation as to draw with all and to make the Bible read as one harmonious revelation of God's divine plans and purposes, so that the "way faring man, though a fool," can understand and appreciate it. With this key the Bible becomes a hundred times more intelligible and interesting than as at present interpreted by most theologians. The most exacting demands of reason and common sense are answered on the one hand, and the highest authority of scripture given, on the other hand. Go hear these lectures and hereafter you can give a reason for the hope that is within you, and not have to "crawl" whenever the Bible and Christianity are attacked in your presence. They are free to all and no collection will be taken.

THE LOCAL STAGE.

Roland Reed and Isadore Rush Given a Cordial Reception.

The atrocious weather which prevailed last night did not prevent a large number of Houston theater-goers from seeing Roland Reed and Isadore Rush in their new play, "His Father's Boy," at Sweeney & Coombs' opera house. In view of all the unfavorable conditions the attendance, which was no less enthusiastic than large, was in the nature of a decided compliment to Mr. Reed and Miss Rush and one that they should have appreciated if they did not. Even at the matinee a large sized audience was present and at both performances the reception accorded the players was gratifying in the extreme and indicated very definitely the popularity of the two stars in Houston.

The cast of characters in "A Woman Hater," as presented at the matinee, was as follows:

Samuel Bundy, a woman hater Roland Reed
Horace Mulbridge, ex-professor Charles S. Abbo
George Dobbinus of the Coffee Exchange George Dobbinus
Tom Tipton, a medical student Sheridan Tupper
Dr. Lane, a specialist in mental diseases Charles Lothian
Orlando Hawkins, a deputy sheriff P. Hicks
Thompson, attendant at Dr. Lane's Julian Reed
James, office boy at Dr. Lane's James Douglas
William, servant at Dr. Lane's S. A. Gordon
Mrs. Walton, in search of number two Charles Hardie
Alice Lane, very much in love Miss Lottie Little
Mrs. Lucy Joy, in search of number three Miss Isadore Rush

The people who presented "His Father's Boy" were:

William Pennie, who invented some troubles of his own Roland Reed
Edward Burney, who gets interested in the invention Sheridan Tupper
Jack Mackie, a silent friend Charles Lothian
Colonel Mackie, a jealous husband L. P. Hicks
James, servant at the Pennies Julian Reed
Mrs. Burney, "Rebecca," the illustrious wife of Burney Miss Alice Lane
Mrs. Mackie, Jack's mother Mrs. Mackie
Nita, Pennie's daughter Miss Lottie Little
Mrs. Pennie, better known as "Elizabeth," the trusting wife of Pennie Miss Isadore Rush

The first named piece has nothing particular to recommend it and were it placed in the hands of an inferior company would more than likely be a failure. As presented yesterday afternoon by Mr. Reed and his capable company, however, it proved to be quite entertaining. The best work was done by Miss Rush, Mr. Reed, Mr. Abbo, and Mr. Lothian.

Sydney Rosenfeld's new play, "His Father's Boy," was written expressly for Miss Rush and Mr. Reed and is by long odds the best thing they have had for several seasons. The plot is clever and amusing, the situations are always funny, the dialogue is bright and witty and the piece is well handled. Mr. Reed as Pennie is a part which is eminently suited to the display of his somewhat peculiar talent and he keeps his audience in a constant good humor from the initial rise of the curtain to the last scene.

At times last night the applause bestowed on him was extremely enthusiastic and at the end of the second act he appeared before the curtain and made one of his characteristic talks in response to the persistent demands of the people in front.

Miss Rush as Mrs. Pennie does some very clever work and wears some very handsome gowns. Her "Colonel Mackie" is very cleverly elicited unbounded evidences of appreciation and all during the presentation of the piece she shared the honors with Mr. Reed.

The supporting company is unusually strong. Miss Lottie Little, the new ingenue, who formerly appeared in the role of Fawn Afrid in "The Girl I Left Behind Me," is a delightful addition to the character of Nita, appearing to especially good advantage in the scenes with Jack and Pennie in the second act. Mr. Sheridan Tupper's Edward Burney is very cleverly elicited unbounded evidences of appreciation and all during the presentation of the piece she shared the honors with Mr. Reed.

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